Boston June [18, 1833]

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Dear Brother

A number of the friends of Christ in Boston & vicinity, who feel deeply interested in the progress of Evangelical doctrine, vital piety & stern Christian Morality & who believe that the periodical press may be made a most efficient instrument in their promotion, have, for some time, felt the necessity of a new weekly religious paper in Boston. The establishment of such a paper has been the subject of frequent conversation & has seemed to them to be imperiously demanded.

Here however the question has arisen at once, what kind of a religious paper shall it be? And I believe the general feeling has been that it ought to cover a broad field — so far as it can be done in one paper, that it should cover the ground of the Spirit of the Pilgrims & Christian Soldier in respect to the prevailing errors of Boston & vicinity; the ground of the N. York Evangelist in respect to revivals & free doctrinal discussion; the ground of the N. York Observer in respect to religious & political intelligence, & the ground of the Genius of Temperance in respect to the great subject of Christian Morals.

And further, that it should be conducted with entire independence, assuming to itself the right to think & speak for itself on each & every subject embraced in its design; considering itself as pledged to no particular party of men or class of opinions, but as set for the defence of truth whatever that may be, & with whomsoever or whatsoever it may clash; & to this end, that it should hold its columns

open to fair & candid discussion on each & every subject of Christian doctrine & practice.

If such a paper, conducted on such principles could be established & sustained (& it does not yet appear that it cannot) it is believed that, with the blessing of Almighty God attending it, it would be an instrument of great & lasting good to the churches of Christ throughout New England. Now what is desired of you, dear Sir, is that you would give us your opinion, & what information you can on the following topics.

1. Do the interests of religion in your vicinity demand, in your opinion, the establishment of such a paper?

2. Is the feeling that there ought to be a new religious paper in Boston, prevalent in your vicinity

3. Do you take the N. Y. Evangelist or Observer & why?

4. Do your people take either, why, & how many copies.

5. Would they probably take such an one as that proposed in preference to either, provided it came from Boston.

6. How many copies of such paper could you probably circulate among your own people?

7. If established, are you willing to stand pledged to <u>write</u> for it, & in this way, & by endeavoring to promote its circulation, do what you can to sustain it & make it what it should be?

An <u>immediate</u> answer to these inquiries & the communication of any other facts or information which will be of use in coming to a decision respecting the Expediency of this measure will much oblige

Yours sincerely